Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with a great pleasure that I would like to make my first address through our newsletter.

First of all I am proud and honoured being elected as the World Veterinary Association’s New President during the celebration of this world veterinary year 2011 and the celebration of 250 years for our profession and the establishment of the first veterinary school in the world in Lyon, France.

I will have also the great opportunity to celebrate with you the 150th World Veterinary Association’s birth anniversary during the next 2013 World Veterinary Congress in Prague.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my sincere colleagues in the World having supporting me during the Cape Town Presidents’ Assembly elections and giving me their trust and consideration.
Although I have the difficult task to continue the great job done by my predecessors and distinguished colleagues during the last 20 years, I am ready to do all my best to lead the WVA to be the global voice for veterinarians in order to strengthen their position to assure and promote animal health, public health and animal welfare at a global level.

To be recognised as the global veterinary voice, we should promote high quality veterinary education and support veterinarians in delivering their responsibilities by optimising the preconditions required for fulfilling their tasks and act as a link between animals, animal owners and society.

As I promised during my Presidents’ Assembly speech for candidacy I will continue to gather more countries and organisations to join WVA to make it as the global association and increase its power since WVA is the only non-governmental organization (NGO) representing the veterinary profession globally. We will also organize more frequent meetings with national and international members, enhance cooperation with international and regional organizations involved in veterinary activities, animal and public health, livestock, food safety, animal protection and animal welfare, drug industries and expand on strong partnerships.

With the new WVA EXCOM and Council, we will reinforce and strengthen the WVA, and raise the WVA profile with an efficient secretariat to have close collaboration with all its members and improve communication between associate members through the WVA website, WVA newsletter and WVA events such as World Veterinary Day, World Rabies Day and take an active role during the global conferences.

My sincere congratulations and best wishes to all the WVA elected new members for the Executive Committee and Council. We will work as a good team in representing our members and in being attentive to their recommendations and their hope.

Good Luck for our profession and a very successful near future.

Dr Faouzi Kechrid,
WVA President

Retrospect and Thanks from your President 2008-2011

When I was elected in the 2008 Presidents’ Assembly (PA), I gave my view of objectives for WVA and to come with a proposal for a strategy plan to strengthen WVA in policymaking, lobbying and professionalism. Now I realize that this was too optimistic. WVAExcom and WVCouncil therefore came with a partial strategy proposal for changing the Constitution and Bylaws for the benefit and professional enhancement of WVA. Even this was a step too far and it seems clear that the decision making process cannot be prepared by the appointed body: the Council. This approach makes decision making, as in many global organizations, very slow. I fully agree that the PA has to be the final decision making body and I respect the outcome of the PA. I was only a little bit disappointed that the discussion between the members could not take place in-depth in the PA forum. That is the place for the members to give their comments, remarks and concerns.

I am happy with the AVMA member proposal to appoint a committee to prepare the next steps. Postponing the proposal in total will not benefit the WVA. To withdraw the proposal of change, recognizing that even partial changes were not discussable, was in my opinion the only way to continue in the committee.

Three weeks after the WVC, Presidents’ Assembly and a very pleasant trip through Namibîa with a visit at the farm of past-president Herbert Schneider, it is time for retrospection.
Lack of Communication with the members could be a cause, but the WVAExcom and WVACouncil are ready with the facilities to solve this and to strengthen their communication and we will continue with vigour. I recognize that there are still barriers in direct communication with the members, but the WVAExcom was solving these by involving the Councillors more in discussions and policymaking on a frequent basis and sending the reports of these discussions direct to the members frequently. While we can use the part of the website restricted for Council use, this option is limited unless all Councillors actively participate in communication. By sending direct reports to the members the interaction can be strengthened.

During this last three years I have made many representations to the members and associate members and I experienced a great involvement from the members about what WVA is doing. We have renewed many policy papers and consultation has lead to fruitful discussions about the issues we proposed. A number of policies are on track and will be soon ready for consultation.

The cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations, like OIE, FAO, WHO, IFAH, WSPA and also global veterinary associations has been strengthened. It could be that we have not communicated this in-depth to our members directly, but I have in the Newsletter always highlighted this. I hope that the members consider the Newsletter experience as a good tool of Communication.

To participate in ad hoc working groups and task force groups the WVA has been made more visible than before. The WVA is recognized as a global animal health, animal welfare and public health player with one professional vision and voice.

One of the most interesting parts of my presidency was to be involved in World Veterinary Year 2011. A good and effective cooperation in the Executive Committee of VET2011 and participation in many celebrations was an eye-opener, a pleasure for me and a benefit for the visibility of WVA worldwide.

The Closing Ceremony organized by WVA during the WVC made VET2011 a memory, and I think that many veterinarians Worldwide will remember what Claude Bourgelat 250 years ago has stood for: the veterinary education, the veterinary profession and the One Health concept, even for today.

**Thanks**

I would like to thank my WVAExcom and WVACouncil colleagues for the good cooperation and the great friendship in this years and it gives me a good feeling to participate as Immediate Past-President in the new group.

Also many thanks to all the members, associate members and organizations which received me with great hospitality and friendship. The opportunity to participate in their meetings and take part in the discussions or giving a presentation was for me a great pleasure and honour.

A special thanks to the WVC organizing committee, chaired by Anthony Erasmus, and the SAVA Board for their organization of such a splendid World Veterinary Congress with all the scientific and social topics.

Cape Town, South Africa will always be in our memory.

Last but not least I would like to thank heartily the WVA Secretariat, Jan Vaarten and Nancy De Briyne, for their excellent co-operation. To work under high tension to prepare all meetings well on a high standard on a part time basis was great. To prepare all aspects of the PA so well, was for me admirable.

All the best for WVA
Dr Tjeerd Jorna
Past-President
Antimicrobial Resistance - Driving Change in Veterinary Practice

As vice president of the World Veterinary Association, I was pleased to have an opportunity to chair the WVA Global Veterinary Summit in Cape Town. Subsequent to this, I was invited to bring opening remarks to the Canadian Conference dealing with the same issue of antimicrobial use in veterinary practice.

Global concern about Antimicrobial Resistance has been well documented in the media for a long time now. Recently there has been a flurry of activity around the topic, resulting in a number of national and international conferences dealing with the subject. The Antimicrobial Stewardship in Canadian Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Conference is just one example of opportunities provided to bring experts in the field together in an effort to further explore issues surrounding antimicrobial use.

In its recently released “Guidelines for Risk Analysis of Food- Borne Antimicrobial Resistance”, the Codex Alimentarius, as a global standard setting body concerned with food quality and safety, sets the stage for a science based discussion of the issue. They introduce their document by saying “antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major public health concern and food safety issue. When pathogens become resistant to antimicrobial agents they can pose a greater human health risk as a result of potential treatment failure, loss of treatment options and increased likelihood and severity of disease. Problems related to AMR are inherently related to antimicrobial use in any environment, including human and non-human uses. The use of antimicrobial agents in food producing animals/crops provides a potentially important risk factor for selection and dissemination of AMR microorganisms and determinants from animals/food crops to humans via the consumption of food.”

This is not a new thought and there has been ongoing discussion about the seriousness of the concern as well as how we can demonstrate appropriate “Stewardship” of antimicrobial products in an effort to reduce or eliminate the risk. Clearly this is a global problem being dealt with by many different organizations, each with its own mandate. These diverse mandates have resulted in an assortment of opinions as to where the problems lie and as to what solutions may be effective. The World Veterinary Association (WVA) hosted the WVA Summit 2011 in Cape Town South Africa, with the participation of a range of interested organizations. The goal was to explore the theme “Lessons Learned and Future Approaches on the Use of Antimicrobials” from the viewpoint of the various participating organizations.

- The WVA, representing the veterinary profession globally introduced its new Position on Responsible Use of Antimicrobials (available at www.worldvet.org) This document details the concern of the profession for continued access to safe and effective antimicrobial therapy for both animal health and human health. It outlines a series of best practices for the veterinary professionals and their clients in achieving this objective.
- The World Health organization (WHO), focusing on human and public health relates that AMR is a priority in their policy development activities and feels that there is a risk of health threats returning to pre-antibiotic days. Their concern centers around the wide spread use of antimicrobials in
livestock, the use of the same classes of antimicrobials in livestock and humans as well as the recognition of food as an important vector for the spread of AMR between animals and humans.

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is the global policy body focusing on food security and safety along the entire food production chain. Recognising that antimicrobials are essential for treatment of infectious diseases in both humans and animals, there needs to be a balance between animal health and public health concerns. They hold that the use of antimicrobials in prophylactic and growth promotion activities may present unique risk.

- The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) is engaged in the establishment and implementation of animal health and welfare and veterinary public health policies and standards at a World-wide level. Their activities consider the continued availability of quality drugs and the sustainability of their use to accomplish their objectives, which include safe and efficient trade in animals and products of animal origin.

- The International Federation of Animal Health (IFAH) represents corporations engaged in the development, manufacture and distribution of antimicrobial products. They related their commercial interest in maintaining the efficacy of their products and emphasised the need for proper legislation and enforcement in regards to manufacture and use of these products. An ability to monitor quantities used is essential.

Throughout the discussion there was no contradiction in the assessment that the use of antimicrobials in veterinary medicine comes with a risk. We know there is a hazard and that there is exposure. The variance in opinion is around the question, “how much risk does this present and is this risk acceptable or avoidable?”

There has been a lot of talk lately about the concept of “One World- One Health.” It is commonly accepted that the line between human and animal health is at best very thin and at worst non-existent. There is a great need for health professionals of all disciplines to work closely together. Likewise there is an urgent need for policy and standard setting bodies and regulatory agencies to work together to deal with the question of antimicrobial resistance. It is inappropriate for one sector to sit in their particular silo and expound the view that certainly there is a problem but the problem is all caused by someone else.

Every person engaged in the development, manufacture, distribution and use of antimicrobials, whether for human or animal patients has a role to play in preserving the integrity of these products. If we are to demonstrate true “stewardship” we must all recognise our role and responsibility and be able to trust that our colleagues are holding up their end. This is the real challenge of One Health.

Managing antimicrobials use in animals

In 2003 the OIE convened an ad hoc Group on Antimicrobial Resistance which updated 4 relevant chapters of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and proposed a list of Critically Important Antimicrobials for Veterinary Use. The World Assembly of OIE national Delegates adopted these standards as well as the list of antibiotics in 2007.

OIE is already engaged in preventing antimicrobial resistance worldwide through different actions:

- Promotion of responsible and prudent use of antimicrobial agents in veterinary medicine; and thus avoid practices at risk;
- Reinforcement of good governance of Veterinary Services;
- Better knowledge and monitoring of the quantities of antimicrobials used in animal husbandry;
- Harmonization of national antimicrobial resistance surveillance and monitoring programmes, and implementation of international coordination programmes;
- Implementation of risk assessment measures.

Visit the OIE Antimicrobial Portal at: [http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/amr/](http://www.oie.int/for-the-media/amr/)
We invite you to the WVC 2013 that will be held in Prague in September 2013. Apart from the excellent scientific programme and variety of tours and social events that will be prepared for the delegates, you may take part in the First Veterinary Golf Championship that will be organized before the Congress. Also the 150th WVA anniversary will be celebrated in Prague, so you should not miss this Event and come to celebrate it and enjoy it with us!

The official promotion of the WVC 2013 started at the WVC 2011 in Cape Town. If you had been present you could have tasted Czech beer, get a nice present and even win a free registration for the WVC 2013.

The lucky three winners were drawn during the Gala dinner at the CTICC and here are their names: Gabriella Flacke from Namibia, Leon Connoway from South Africa and Muhammed Diyar Tayeb from Iraq.

We would be glad if you visited the website of the Congress where you may find all interesting and important information.


We look forward to meeting you in Prague

Organizers of the WVC 2013 Congress

In case of any questions do not hesitate to contact the Congress Secretariat: wvc2013@guarant.cz

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City of Prague

Prague presents a remarkable collection of historical monuments. Many different architectural styles merge in a unique way creating a city with an extraordinary atmosphere.
In 1981, the heart of the city centre was designated as a national historical monument and in 1992 it was included in UNESCO’s list of the world’s cultural heritage.
Besides the cultural experience you may look forward to tasting excellent cuisine and famous Czech beer.

Tours and Events

Tours for delegates and accompanying persons including pre- and after-congress excursions
World Veterinary Golf Championship as integral part of the Congress
Opening Ceremony and Welcome Cocktail at the PCC on September 17
Dinner in a restaurant on September 18 and Congress Dinner on September 19 for Congress participants and accompanying persons
Closing Ceremony at the PCC on September 20

Scientific Programme

Canine and Feline Medicine
Canine and Feline Surgery
Equine Medicine and Surgery
Bovine Medicine
Porcine Medicine
Poultry Medicine
Exotic Animals Medicine
Epidemiology
Welfare
Food Hygiene

Congress Venue / PCC

Prague Congress Centre (PCC) is the main meeting facility in the city. Situated in a convenient location with a beautiful panoramic view of Prague, with its large parks, the Vltava River and a magnificent view of Prague Castle.
Metro station and highway to city are close to PCC, allowing excellent transportation to the very centre of Prague.
Address: Třída 5. května 65, 140 21 Prague 4, Czech Republic
Webpage: www.kcp.cz
2011 held much significance for the veterinary profession as the 30th World Veterinary Congress took place in Cape Town, South Africa, during World Veterinary Year, with the related theme of “Vet for health, Vet for food, Vet for the planet.” It was the 250th Anniversary of veterinary education and of the veterinary profession. Some 2,000 delegates from over 170 nations attended the Congress, which represented the most extensive veterinary scientific showcase yet to emerge on African soils. It was the first time that the Congress was hosted in sub-Saharan Africa.

Matters of real importance to the health and wellbeing of all South Africans as well as to the national, continental and global economy were under discussion as the Congress explored the theme “Caring for animals: healthy communities.”

When she opened the Congress, Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson of the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said that “The one-health concept is a significant approach in ensuring human and animal health. The concept is an interface between wild life, domestic animals and human health and it certainly endeavours to revolutionise health in general”.

Congress Chairperson Dr Anthony Erasmus noted that this was an extremely important congress as veterinarians are charged with a dual responsibility: to protect both animal health and animal welfare as well as human health at the global level. There was much emphasis on production-animal diseases, cross-border disease control, food safety, food security and public health.

The synergy of multiple global organisations with very similar missions were strongly represented at the Congress: the OIE – the World Organisation for Animal Health; the FAO – the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations; the WHO – World Health Organisation; the WVA – World Veterinary Association; and the WMA – World Medical Association.

South African Veterinary Association President Dr Riaan du Preez said that the very extensive scientific programme would not only add tremendous value to the knowledge and skills of veterinary and paraveterinary practitioners, but also play a crucial role in safe and secure food production in future as well as help in understanding zoonotic diseases better, thereby assisting in building healthier communities!”

South African Veterinary Council President Dr Rebone Moerane said that with most developing countries experiencing challenges related to meeting the Millennium Development Goals, particularly related to poverty, food security and joblessness, they were certain that the proceedings of the Congress and participation of international experts would highlight the veterinary technologies that could be adopted to address these challenges. They looked for the important role of the veterinary profession in promoting animal and human health, improving food production and ensuring food security to be highlighted.

The Congress theme tied in well with the One Health initiative, which is a worldwide strategy for expanding interdisciplinary collaborations and communications in all aspects of healthcare for humans, animals and the environment, in a bid to sustainably manage our collective global survival. The programme explored the triangle formed by the Human / Animal (both domestic and wild) / Ecosystem interface, with the veterinarian central to this relationship. It also examined the companion-animal, production-animal and / or wildlife animal veterinarian’s role in positively impacting on a community’s social, economic and environmental sustainability.

**Summit on the use of Antimicrobials**

The World Veterinary Association Summit, opened by WVA President Dr Tjeerd Jorna, discussed the benefits and challenges encountered with using antimicrobials. (“Antimicrobials: use them responsible today to safeguard them for tomorrow”).
The word “antimicrobials” covers all antimicrobial products administered orally and parenterally to animals and humans. There has been on-going debate about whether veterinarians should have continued use of antimicrobials in the face of growing concern about the emergence of resistance to them within human medicine.

Dr Lyle Vogel presented the WVA position on the responsible use of antimicrobials in animals. The availability and use of a variety of antimicrobials for animals is essential to assure animal health and welfare. However, there is a risk that the use of antimicrobials in animals can result in resistance to antimicrobials which negatively affects public and animal health. Therefore, the availability and use of antimicrobials in animals must be balanced to achieve good animal and public (human) health. The profession of veterinary medicine is responsible to safeguard both animal health and public health and therefore the World Veterinary Association strives to protect both animal and public health.

Decisions on how to manage the risk of antimicrobial resistance must be based on risk analysis (risk assessment, risk communication and risk management). The veterinary profession recognizes the importance of antimicrobials for both animal health and public health; risk analysis must include evaluation of the risks to animal health and public health, as well as the benefits to public health, animal health and animal welfare from the use of antimicrobials in animals.

Different countries or regions have chosen different risk management actions based on risk analysis, such as due to the differences in the level of risk tolerance or differences on the emphasis placed on risks versus benefits to public health. Some countries and regions have banned the use of antimicrobials for growth promotion/feed efficiency while other countries have declined to do the same.

The WVA says that antimicrobials should be used only with veterinary involvement and emphasized that when the decision is reached to use antimicrobials, the veterinarian should strive to optimize effectiveness and minimize development of resistance to antimicrobials to protect public and animal health.

Protecting animal health, through the prevention or relief of conditions that cause animal suffering, is an essential part of ensuring good animal welfare. A good animal welfare status will help the animal to maintain its natural resistance against diseases.

Animal health, food security and the Millennium Development Goals were under the radar at the World Veterinary Summit. Dr Scott Newman, in his opening remarks from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, made reference to the veterinarian’s contribution in terms of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s).

According to Newman, veterinarians have an essential role in attaining the MDG’s, including:

- Eradication of extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieving universal primary education;
- Promoting gender equality and empowerment of women;
- Reducing child mortality;
- Improving maternal health;
- Combating HIV / Aids and other diseases;
- Ensuring environmental sustainability;
- Establishing global partnerships for development.

This involves the promotion of veterinary and public health, improved nutrition, enhancing access to food for the most needy, ensuring sustainable natural resources, and the prevention of animal diseases that impact directly on livelihoods, food security, wildlife, and people.

Some of the key points Dr Newman made included:

- Veterinarians make the most direct contribution to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by decreasing the proportion of people below the minimum dietary energy consumption requirements. Veterinarians also address the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, environmental sustainability, and the establishment of partnerships for global development. As veterinarians concentrate on the reduction of poverty and hunger, veterinarians’ efforts also contribute to a reduction in child mortality, improvement of maternal health, and the combating of diseases such as HIV / Aids and malaria.
- Local veterinarians and the FAO lead programmes to promote food security, increase nutritional awareness, increase access to affordable animal-based food, and empower women to obtain better healthcare, education, and social services.
- Local veterinarians and the FAO support sustainable natural resource management, including:
  - Agricultural water use efficiency;
  - Land and soil productivity;
Sustainable forest management
- Aquaculture and inland fisheries;
- Integrated crop and livestock systems;
- Pesticide management, watershed management, and the major environmental conventions and multilateral environmental agreements (CMS, Ramsar, CBD, etc)

- Livestock is a major contributor to agricultural production, accounting for 40% of the global output, employing approximately 1.3 billion people, and supporting the livelihoods of almost 1 billion extremely poor people (those living below $1 per day). Animals play a major role in tilling the soil where crops are grown, providing quality nutrition through meat and dairy products, harvesting the riches of the earth and their transport, providing fertilisers and moving water to feed thirsty lands and communities, providing and contributing to important traditions and ceremonial rights, supplying hides and fabric for clothing, and giving communities sustenance for improved living.

The global population challenge

Former WVA President Dr Jim Edwards suggested that the World needs to move away from paradigm of economic growth for survival to one of economic stability and sustainability. He said that Governments are focused on population growth through births and immigration, because they see that is how they can raise more income to provide for their citizens. However, the demographic change towards an aging population is only exacerbating that challenge.

The generally accepted population size for the middle of this century is 9 billion people. However, it could be much higher unless there are significant changes in population growth rates. With the exception of a few countries, it is unlikely to be lower. The World has, with only a few notable exceptions, not shown any propensity to impose policies that will effectively control population growth.

Dr Edwards also said that we need to see policies that will limit the removal of the resources available for food production and animal habitats; and policies that continue to promote sustainable agricultural production that will preserve resources while providing an increasing supply of food.

He said that “there is no escaping the need for increasing intensification as we assist in the production of increasing volumes of food from the finite resource of land, water and air that is available to us”. In fact, these finite resources may be decreasing, as humans occupy more space and as degradation spoils the sustainability of our existing resources.

Another paradigm shift is required, if veterinarians are going to begin to influence these drivers. We need an increasing recognition of the contributions that veterinarians could make.

The “Green revolution” saw an era of cheap food that has now come to an end. Recent global food industry crises occurred in 2008 and then again in 2011. This suggests that the world cannot even feed its current population, let alone the expected 9 billion.

Adding further to the concerns is climate change, of which agriculture is both cause and victim. So how will the world cope in the next four decades? The answer is not a straightforward technical or biological one because food is basic to life.

Food is probably the biggest single influence on people’s health, though in radically different ways in poor and in rich countries. The World looks to farmers to do more than just produce food. Agriculture is also central to reducing hunger and provides many people’s main route out of poverty.

It is well recognized that eating habits change as affluence increases. There is a move from vegetable based diets through increased supplementation with animal based food stuffs. Worldwide, there are an estimated 70 billion poultry, 12 billion cattle, sheep and goats, and 1.5 billion pigs that are used to provide food.

The concerns of the critics of modern agriculture may be understandable, but the reaction against intensive farming is a luxury of the rich. Traditional and organic farming could feed Europeans and Americans well. It cannot feed the world.

Animal Welfare Compromises

So why is this important to the veterinary profession? The profession is deeply involved in the provision of a safe and reliable supply of food, for the human population as well as the animal population. Every veterinarian who is involved should relate their everyday work to the quest towards food security and food safety.
Veterinarians are working with the producer who is trying to operate a sustainable farming system and aware that the increasingly affluent urban population that is trying to insist on less intensive farming systems.

The public and animal welfare organizations look for animals to be managed so that their welfare is maximized. Animal rights organizations do not support the exploitation of animals for human needs and believe that animals should be able to live a natural life in a wild or feral state.

Farmers are trying to operate a sustainable and successful farming operation, so it is not in their interest to push animal welfare below an acceptable level which we describe as “cruelty” which would result in the loss of animals whose production would then be zero.

Veterinarians can recognize and understand the competing demands and need to give their advice accordingly. Unfortunately, the challenge is becoming more difficult because the public understanding is more and more becoming shaped by the most vociferous groups who tend to favour animal rights. That is a luxury that such groups may be able to promote, especially when they come from affluent societies.

The challenge for veterinarians therefore becomes focused on advice to farmers and education of the public if they are to continue to increase food production to feed the increasing global population.

**How can aquaculture help?**

The Millennium Development Goal for at least the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger came to mind during the session titled “Aquatic Veterinary Epidemiology and Biosecurity for Vets”. Chaired by Dušan Palić, speakers included Dr David Scarfe and Dr Chris Walster. Aquaculture represents to a large degree the future of the global food supply. There is an ever increasing number of subsistence farmers globally in the face of the decline of traditional fisheries. A major plus is that aquaculture does not hold any major barriers to entry. Although in its stage of infancy in many countries, advances in aquaculture continuously take place and the advancement of this field of veterinary medicine represents the Holy Grail in terms of keeping the anticipated one-third more people on our planet by 2050 fed in the light of fewer resources.

Globally, aquaculture produces approximately 155 million metric tons, roughly slightly less than all of the harvest fisheries in the world. Aquaculture production is growing at around 9 to 14% annually.

The World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association presented a 3-day aquatic veterinary session as well as an off-site aquaculture biosecurity workshop. Fin fish, abalone and other aquacultural products have been cited as the fastest growing source of human protein globally. This, together with aquatic biosecurity and the risks of international trade in fish, are of national interest and importance not least to South Africa.”

Educational institutions such as the University of Pretoria (UP) Faculty of Veterinary Science, Onderstepoort, are credited with assisting in the move towards increased awareness via taking forward education on terrestrial animals and applying this to aquaculture. Onderstepoort is leading the way in terms of assisting other African countries with aquatic testing.

Not only does aquaculture offer to a degree a solution for the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger; it can help reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, ensure environmental sustainability, and encourage the establishment of global partnerships for development. These are all Millennium Development Goals. Having said this, aquaculture does require trained personnel and continually improving technological advances.

There is continually room for growth and a lot of the international philanthropic developmental organisations that work in the sphere of subsistence farming and they are taking a serious look at aquaculture.

Commented Walster: “Aquaculture is responsible for supplying over 50% of the fish that we eat and yet the biggest constraint to farmed fisheries remains disease, for example that experienced in the Zambezi Valley spanning the area between the Chobe River right down to Mozambique. Both the OIE – the World Organisation for Animal Health – and the FAO – the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations – are keeping close tabs on disease in this region. Aquaculture initiatives therefore need to be organised, whether in the case of the subsistence farmer or in the case of farmed fisheries.”

Scarfe added: “Currently farmed fisheries equal or in some cases exceed as a source of food when
compared to other agricultural commodities. Globally, there are currently approximately 10,000 veterinarians working in the field of aquaculture-based veterinary medicine. Key to their work in terms of translating a biosecurity plan into practice is the prevention, control and eradication of disease. They use the forum of congresses such as this one to raise awareness of aquaculture veterinary medicine such that more vets are introduced to this field. At the same time, producers are able to learn useful facts at presentations on aquaculture.”

Messages from the future of the profession

“We need to build on anything that offers us a final password out of poverty” was the united voice from the veterinary students who spoke during a panel discussion at the Closing Ceremony of the 30th World Veterinary Congress. They said that it was essentially a make or break pivotal role that the profession must ever increasingly play in the interface between the ecosystem, human health, and animal health. Now more than ever previously, veterinarians are best placed to help address the Millennium Development Goal of the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger.

Among comments made by those about to enter the profession that demonstrates a solid grasp of their role in the global dimension:

• “I am optimistic that the profession is evolving to contribute all the required skills and technology to satisfy local needs and to address the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.”
• “We need to build on anything that offers us a final password out of poverty. In my home country, Ethiopia, new veterinary faculties opened in recent years. This is so important as there, livestock mean everything to every member of the community, whether you look at their importance from an economic, a social, or a cultural perspective.”
• “Here in Denmark we’ve just merged the two largest veterinary faculties, in line with the spirit of the One Health initiative. I notice an ever increasing number of specialisations in the veterinary field. One may remain a classically trained vet yet work in a mixed practice. In Denmark we act as advisors rather than purely ‘doctors’; we help farmers optimise production potential. Globally, we must work as a team, helping one another through a system based on trust. We should listen to one another when advice is given based on our specialised skills.”
• “In Calgary, Alberta in Canada, where I’m based, we spend time with farmers and producers to see how we can best service their needs.”

Recognizing the veterinary profession

The 2011 World Veterinary Day Award was presented at the 30th World Veterinary Congress Closing Ceremony to the Myanmar Veterinary Association for their submission which clearly demonstrated co-operation with the government and through tapping into media networks to help combat Rabies.

Rabies was the chosen theme this year because the veterinary profession wants to help prevent the more than 55,000 human deaths that occur each year.

World Veterinary Day, held annually in April, offers an opportunity for the profession to celebrate with members of the public the extensive and crucially pivotal role of the profession, not only in terms of providing for the health and welfare of companion animals but also to raise awareness of the increasingly important contribution of veterinarians in terms of food security and food safety and to the sustainability of our environment.
WVA Honorary Memberships Presented

WVA President Dr Tjeerd Jorna presented three Honorary Memberships at the Gala Evening at the 31st World Veterinary Congress in Cape Town.

Dr Jim Edwards

When WVA President Dr Tjeerd Jorna presented the award, Jim Edwards acknowledged the honour and value of receiving such recognition from his professional peers. He also spoke about the support from families at home and colleagues at work that was much appreciated and necessary for all veterinarians and especially those elected to take on additional responsibility within their profession and community.

Dr Edwards was elected to the WVA Executive at the 1995 Congress in Yokohama, Japan. He was given responsibility for WVA Policy and worked together with the then President, Dr Apostolos Rantsios, to prepare a new Constitution and Bylaws which the WVA accepted at a General Assembly in Paris following an extensive global consultation.

Dr Edwards was then elected to serve as a Vice-President and subsequently succeeded Dr Rantsios as the next President of the WVA from 1999 – 2002. Jim Edwards created and still manages the WVA website (www.worldvet.org) and is also the editor of the WVA newsletter. He was appointed the Communications Director in 2009.

Dr Herbert Schneider

Dr Herbert Schneider said that he felt deeply honored when he received the WVA Honorary Membership Award from the President of the WVA, Dr Tjeerd Jorna, in Cape Town on 13 October 2011.

He expressed his gratitude to his wife Ilme and all his colleagues who had encouraged and supported him during all his years serving the WVA.

Dr. Schneider was elected to the WVA Executive as Vice-President for Africa 1995 at the WVC Yokohama. Subsequently he was elected Vice-President of the WVA in 1999 and President in 2002 at the WVC Tunis. From 2005 until 2008 he served on the WVA Executive as Immediate Past President.

During his term as President, Dr Schneider concentrated on establishing and re-establishing cooperation agreements with international bodies such as the OIE, FAO and WHO and was involved in the establishment of the World Veterinary Day Award together with the OIE.
Dr Leon H. Russell was President of the WVA from 2005 – 2008. Dr Russell was unable to attend the 30th World Veterinary Congress in Cape Town because of ill health. Dr Russell’s road plan saw strategic gains for the World Veterinary Association.

The end of his Presidency coincided with the move of the WVA Secretariat from Copenhagen to Brussels.

Dr Russell was a former President of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Dr Leon H. Russell from College Station, Texas, USA was educated at the University of Missouri, Tulane University and the Texas A & M University where he still works. Dr Russell holds numerous memberships: the American Veterinary Medical Association, Diplomate of the American College of Preventive Medicine - Specialty Epidemiology - Distinguished Member, National Academies of Practice in Veterinary Medicine - Distinguished Scholar, Texas Veterinary Medical Association – Distinguished Member, American Veterinary Epidemiology Society, Honorary Diploma, International HACCP Alliance, Board of Directors, American Association of Food Hygiene Veterinarians, US Animal Health Association, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians.

Professor Russell is a long time staff member of the veterinary school at Texas A&M University where he has taught food safety and public health.

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**Book Review**

Source: The Innovation Journal  ([http://innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol16-no2.htm](http://innovation.cc/volumes-issues/vol16-no2.htm))

**Healing the Herds: Disease, Livestock Economies, and the Globalization of Veterinary Medicine**

by Karen Brown & Daniel Gilfoyle, eds., reviewed by Howard A. Doughty, Seneca College, Canada

This book provides a template for the discussion of questions of ecology, economics and the relationship among nations, regions and international corporate and regulatory agencies that address, sometimes beneficially and sometimes malevolently, the essential issues involved in feeding the planet.

Read more at:  
Gala Presentations

Dr Hashem El Hadi (Sudan) with the President’s Award presented by WVA President Dr Tjeerd Jorna for his services to the WVA and the profession in Africa.

Dr Anthony Erasmus (Congress Organiser) with the Award presented by WVA President Dr Tjeerd Jorna.

The Congress organizers from the South African Veterinary Association celebrate a successful Congress!
were the words OIE director general Dr Vallat used at the opening Global Conference on “Rabies Control: Towards Sustainable Prevention at the Source”, held in Seoul (South Korea). It was organised by the OIE in collaboration with FAO and WHO and received generous support from the Republic of Korea and the Korean Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA).

Although scientifically and technically spoken rabies can well be prevented and controlled, the conference noted that 110 out of the 178 OIE member countries are considered to be endemically infected. Approximately 55 000 people, mainly children, die every year because of rabies. It is estimated that around 99% of these cases originate from bites of rabies virus infected dogs. On top of its direct impact on the health and welfare of people and animals, rabies also has an enormous impact on local economy through the loss of livestock and working animals. In certain cases it threatens the survival of endangered species.

Preventive vaccination and post exposure treatment - provided initiated immediately after exposure - are effective means to prevent the development of disease. However such case by case approach is expensive and does not fundamentally reduce the risk for the spread of virus and the deadly disease. More structural measures, including education and awareness campaigns, dog and wildlife vaccination, and dog population management are needed to make a difference. Yet such measures can only be successful if supported by political will, community commitment and sufficient resources, still serious bottle necks in many countries.

After two days of information exchange and discussion, the conference resulted in several recommendations for better preventing and controlling rabies, such as:

- All governments consider rabies control as a high priority and to ensure that national legislation provides rabies to be a notifiable disease;
- The governance of Veterinary Services be strengthened through the active participation of countries in the OIE tool for the evaluation of the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS);
- Veterinary Services of endemic countries in collaboration with the Public Health Services, municipalities and local communities mobilise appropriate financial support from the public budget;
- Control strategies to be continuously reviewed and adopted taking into account dog population density, dog population turn over and accessibility;
- More research on practical and feasible chemical or immuno-contraception with the possibility for use in combination with parenteral or oral rabies vaccines should be supported with due consideration to safety and public health aspects of oral vaccines;
- The OIE to extend the establishment of regional vaccine banks to provide access to high quality vaccines to countries in urgent need;
- Public awareness and education on rabies control should be a national priority and enhanced by exchange of information, experience and cooperation between medical and veterinary education, environment authorities and the private sector;
- Veterinary Statutory Bodies to ensure that their rules provide for the ethical conduct required from veterinarians and paraveterinary professionals in situations where rabies poses a risk to animals and humans.

The complete conference considerations and recommendations will be available on the OIE website shortly.

The conference also considered massive culling of dogs or wildlife as an isolated interim or emergency control measure not sustainable for efficiently controlling and eliminating dog-mediated rabies. Rabies control, dog population management, and animal welfare should be included in the basic core curriculum of the initial training of veterinarians and para-veterinarians.

Obviously, the decision of the World Veterinary Association and OIE to take rabies as the theme for the 2011 World Veterinary Day Award was a very appropriate one. As announced at the OIE General Session earlier this year, the award goes to Myanmar. It was presented to the winner at the Vet-2011 closing ceremony at the World Veterinary Conference in Cape Town (South Africa).
Merck Animal Health Supports Recovery of the Japanese Animal Sector

BOXMEER, the Netherlands, August 10, 2011 – Merck Animal Health (known as MSD Animal Health outside the USA and Canada), formerly known as Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health, announced today that it has donated about US $30,000 (¥2,3 million) to three veterinary and farmer associations in Japan to support recovery of the Japanese animal sector following the earthquake and tsunami as well as its consequences that have struck the country in March 2011. The disaster had an immense impact on the healthcare situation of the pet, pig and livestock sectors.

The March 2011 earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan have caused widespread devastation that affected many of the country’s agricultural sector. The nuclear crisis that followed, and the subsequent detection of radioactive contamination in the food chain, further raised concerns about the safety of Japan’s food production systems. The affected coastal prefectures are important to Japan’s food-producing sector; before the disaster (based on 2007 USDA figures*) the region was responsible for approximately 17 percent of total national livestock production, representing an annual economic output value of approximately US $5.5 billion (¥425 billion). Moreover, as many people still live in evacuation centers, there is an ongoing need for pet shelter facilities.

Reference


About Merck Animal Health

Today’s Merck is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck Animal Health, known as MSD Animal Health outside the United States and Canada, is the global animal health business unit of Merck. Merck Animal Health offers veterinarians, farmers, pet owners and governments the widest range of veterinary pharmaceuticals, vaccines and health management solutions and services. Merck Animal Health is dedicated to preserving and improving the health, well-being and performance of animals. It invests extensively in dynamic and comprehensive R&D resources and a modern, global supply chain. Merck Animal Health is present in more than 50 countries, while its products are available in some 150 markets. For more information, visit www.merck-animal-health.com.
News from the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA)

2011 International Summit for Urban Animal Strategies

Canadian veterinarians were represented this month at the International Summit for Urban Animal Strategies in Montebello, Quebec.

Dr. Julie de Moissac, past president of the CVMA and the Canadian Chair on the Vet 2011 Committee, provided an overview of the history of veterinary medicine, illustrating the far reaching impact of veterinary science around the world.

Dr. Jim Berry presented the findings published in the Pet Wellness Report, which was released in June by the CVMA and Hill’s Pet Nutrition.

CVMA President, Dr. Lloyd Keddie attended to inform participants of the CVMA’s pivotal role in veterinary medicine and help them better understand Canada’s national veterinary organization.


CVMA National Issues Committee Revises Veterinary Dentistry Position Statement

At their July 2011 meeting, CVMA Council approved a revised Veterinary Dentistry Position Statement:

"Veterinary dentistry involves every aspect of oral health care procedures including, but not limited to, the cleaning, adjustment, filing, extraction, or repair of teeth, and treatment of or surgery to related structures. The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) considers veterinary dentistry to be a medical service for all animal species. As such, the CVMA holds that veterinary dental procedures must be performed by a licensed (registered) veterinarian, recognizing that supra-gingival cleaning (dental prophylaxis) may be delegated under veterinary supervision as determined by provincial regulations."

The position, with background information and references can be accessed here on the CVMA website. This position was developed to align with the CVMA Veterinary Surgical Procedures position statement, particularly in areas such as scope of practice, delegation, veterinary supervision and provincial regulatory authority.
Outstanding contribution award for Professor John Cooper

Professor John E Cooper DTVM FRCPath FSB CiBiol FRCVS DipECVP was the recipient of the British Veterinary Association’s prestigious Chiron Award for 2011.

The award, which marks outstanding contributions to veterinary science or for outstanding services to the profession, judged in either case as being of a calibre commanding international or inter-professional recognition, was presented to Professor Cooper during the Awards Ceremony at the BVA’s Annual Congress in London.

As a specialist pathologist with particular interest in wildlife and exotic species, tropical disease and comparative medicine, Professor Cooper has spent a lifetime in overseas activities and with an unerring commitment to fellow veterinary surgeons, veterinary students, biologists, pathologists and conservationists, especially those in other less fortunate parts of the world. His dedication to the promotion of the role of animals and the role of the veterinary surgeon in health, education and research has been an outstanding service to the veterinary profession overseas and an inspiration to many in the UK.

On learning that he was to receive the Chiron Award, Professor Cooper commented:
“It is always an honour to be recognised – and apparently appreciated – by one’s colleagues.

“I have always believed that the veterinary profession has a larger role to play in the world and in society. However, I have also recognised that, if this is to be achieved, its official bodies and its more reactionary members need a certain amount of pushing, pulling or cajoling!

“Throughout my career I have endeavoured to encourage the profession, particularly students and recent graduates, to be involved in new fields, some of them outside the usual range of what is considered to be the art and science of veterinary medicine. In so doing, I have drawn greatly on my life-long interest in natural history and wildlife and my deep concern for environmental issues and human rights. It has given me tremendous pleasure to play a part in training and encouraging students, veterinary colleagues and people from other disciplines, not only here in Britain but also in various parts of the world, particularly in East Africa.

“I owe a debt of gratitude to my wife, Margaret, who has been my constant supporter and encouragement throughout our life together. I like to think that this award, being made to me, also recognises her many contributions to my life and work – and to the veterinary profession.”

As well as holding several current visiting academic appointments in Britain and overseas, John Cooper is continuing his work with wildlife, domestic animals and rural communities in East Africa.
The Faculty of Veterinary Science is recognised internationally as leading providers of veterinary education, research excellence and key contributors to world best practice in the care and welfare of animals.

This is a rare opportunity to combine your love for veterinary care and education with a quality lifestyle in one of the most liveable cities in the world, Sydney. Due to continued growth, the faculty’s University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Sydney is seeking an enthusiastic, ACVS or ECVS certified small animal surgeon to join their busy team. Board eligible candidates are encouraged to apply.

In this role you will enjoy:
• varied responsibilities including clinical service, teaching and research to further your knowledge
• working in a recently refurbished teaching hospital with state-of-the-art equipment
• the support of a team of specialists in surgery, internal medicine, neurology, imaging and pathology
• working in a hospital that offers 24 hour emergency care, primary care and a well established referral service, located in the heart of Sydney
• a dynamic caseload
• flexible and family-friendly working hours, a University contribution of up to 17% of base salary to superannuation (pension) funds and generous leave entitlements.

This is a great opportunity for a motivated, team oriented individual seeking both a challenge and professional growth.

The position is full-time fixed term for three years, subject to the completion of a satisfactory probation period for new appointees.

Remuneration package: An attractive salary package will be negotiated including four weeks paid annual leave, up to 17% employer’s contribution to superannuation and continuing education allowance. A living away from home allowance is also possible to eligible candidates. If you are required to move from your current place of residence, you and your family will enjoy the full support of the University’s dedicated candidate care and on-boarding service.

All applications must be submitted via the University of Sydney careers website. Visit www.sydney.edu.au/positions and search by the reference number for more information and to apply. Specific enquiries about the role or request for a Candidate Information brochure including selection criteria, can be directed to Professor Ken Johnson on +61 2 9351 3437 or kenneth.johnson@sydney.edu.au

CLOSING DATE: 21 November 2011

The University is an Equal Opportunity employer committed to equity, diversity and social inclusion. Applications from equity target groups and women are encouraged.

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### Calendar of Events

#### 4th HVMS Food Congress 2011
**“Modern Approach to Food Hygiene and Safety”**
11th, 12th & 13th November 2011
Venue: Thessaloniki, Greece
Websites: [www.hvms.gr](http://www.hvms.gr)
[http://62.103.41.180/default_eng_894.ENG.HTML.aspx](http://62.103.41.180/default_eng_894.ENG.HTML.aspx)

#### EBF 2011 - European Buiatrics Forum
16th – 18th November 2011
Palais du Pharo, Marseille, France
Website: [www.buiatricsforum.com](http://www.buiatricsforum.com)

#### 1st International Meeting of University Orchestrinas and Choirs
November 17th–20th 2011
Karditsa, Greece

#### INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KARDITSA
**Praise With Music**
KOSKOKTRON 3 & YDRA 8 • 431 00 KARDITSA
Tel. 2641/3444 4269 • FAX 2641/2570

#### FVE Seminar on antimicrobial
18th November 2011
Crown Plaza Brussels – La Palace
Rue Gineste 1, 1000 Brussels
Website: [www.fve.org/events/](http://www.fve.org/events/)

#### London Vet Show
24th – 25th November 2011
Website: [www.londonvetshow.co.uk](http://www.londonvetshow.co.uk)

### 2012

#### Scientific Conferences for the 120th Anniversary of the Cuban Veterinary Medicine Savant “Dr. Ildefonso Pérez Vigueras (1892-1959)”
Pinar del Río, Cuba
February 9th - 11th, 2012.
Read more at: [www.worldvet.org/node/8484](http://www.worldvet.org/node/8484)

#### 4th International Conference on Drug Discovery and Therapy
12th - 15th Feb 2012
Dubai, UAE
Website: [www.icddt4-03.com](http://www.icddt4-03.com)

#### 2nd World Veterinary Cancer Congress
March 1st – 3rd, 2012
Paris, France
Conference website: [www.worldveterinarycancer.org](http://www.worldveterinarycancer.org)

#### World Buiatrics Congress 2012
June 3rd – 7th, 2012
Lisbon, Portugal
Website: [www.wbc-2012.com](http://www.wbc-2012.com)

#### 2012 CVMA Convention
July 11-14, 2012
Montreal, Quebec
International Congress on Animal Reproduction  
Jul. 29th - Aug. 2nd, 2012  
Website: www.icar2012.com

11th World Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesiology  
24th to 26th September 2012  
Cape Town, South Africa  
Website: www.wcva2012.com

2013

WVA OFFICERS
President: Dr Faouzi Kechrid (Tunisia)  
Vice-Presidents: Dr Duane Landals (Canada); Dr Johnson Chiang (Taiwan)  
Immediate Past President: Dr Tjeerd Jorna (The Netherlands)  
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